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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 RABAT 02906 171211Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-01
MCT-01 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /113 W
----------128952 171216Z /43
O 171141Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5457
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USINT HAVANA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN
SECDEF WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T RABAT 2906

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS MOPS PORG CG MO OAU US
SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION -- CONSULTATIONS WITH MOROCCO

REF A. STATE 125192, B. STATE 124003

1. DCM HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS ZAIRE WITH SECSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS BADDOU YESTERDAY AND CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL A THIS MORNING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOUCETTA.

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2. GOM HAS NOT RESPONDED TO ZAIRIAN REQUESTS HERE AND IN KINSHASA FOR ASSISTANCE, WHICH REMAIN UNDER STUDY. IT IS CONSIDERING SENDING AN OFFICIAL TO ZAIRE TO GET A FIRST-HAND APPRECIATION OF THE SITUATION. ALTHOUGH ASSOCIATING MOROCCO WITH PRINCIPLES OF TERRITTORIAL INTEGRITY AND AFRICAN SOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS,,

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BOUCETTA STATED THAT USG HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO
PLAY AND THAT MOROCCO'S MEANS ARE INDEED LIMITED. HE
TOOK SOME PLEASURE IN DESCRIBING SHABA INVASION AS YET
ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF THE SOVIET-BACKED INCURSIONS IN
AFRICA AGAINST WHICH GOM HAS CONSISTENTLY WARNED US.
HE CONSIDERS THAT CUBANS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY INVOLVED,
AT LEAST AS CADRES, BUT PROFFERED NO EVIDENCE.

3. DECISIONS ON MOROCCAN RESPONSE, IF ANY, TO ZAIRE'S
REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE CLEARLY REST WITH KING, SO BADDOU'S
AND BOUCETTA'S COMMENTS SHOULD BE READ IN PART AS
TEMPORIZING. WE WILL FOLLOW UP AS APPROPRIATE.

4. MEANWHILE WE HAVE HEARD A BBC ("24 HOURS" PROGRAM)
REPORT THAT THE USG CONSIDERING AMONG OTHER OPTIONS THE
USE OF USAF C-130'S TO AIRLIFT MOROCCAN TROOPS TO ZAIRE.
SUCH REPORTS CAN ONLY HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT HERE.
ANDERSON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Litigation History:
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